

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of marketing and selling cotton candy comprising:

forming cotton candy from molten sugar to form a fluffy wad of cotton candy;

positioning the fluffy wad of cotton candy in a rigid, self-supporting, container body through an opening in the container body with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container body, the container body being significantly gas impermeable and surrounding the cotton candy wad to generally protect the wad from being easily compressed;

sealing the container body opening in a significantly airtight fashion to form a closed container, the closed container defining a generally gas impermeable volume surrounding the wad of cotton candy to reduce moisture contact with the cotton candy and maintain its freshness;

presenting the wad of cotton candy in the container for direct consumption by a consumer from the container.

2. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, including the step of limiting gas transmission into said volume at a rate of less than 0.3 grams of moisture per 100 square inches of container area at 73° Fahrenheit for 365 days.

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1, including the step of using a container of polypropylene having a wall thickness in the range of 0.007 to 0.015 inches.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 3 including the step of positioning the wad of cotton candy in said container having a wall thickness of approximately 0.011 inches.

5. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sealing the container body opening with a lid, providing a significantly gas impermeable seal with the container body.

6. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sealing the container body opening with a lid, the lid forming a snap seal with the container body.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 including the step of positioning said wad of cotton candy in a container which is sufficiently rigid to stackably support another container without compression of the cotton candy product therein.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 5 wherein the lid is configured to stackably engage a bottom of another rigid container, and including the step of stacking one of said containers on another.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of positioning a wad of cotton candy includes positioning said wad in a container having a generally flat bottom.

10. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid container body is made of a plastic material.

11. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein said rigid container is at least partially transparent so the cotton candy may be seen inside the container.

12. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein said container has a generally cylindrical shape.

13. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further comprising placing graphics on said container to convey information about the cotton candy wad.

14. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 further including displaying the cotton candy within said container for sale for period of at least two weeks.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food product comprising:

a fluffy wad of cotton candy;

a rigid, self-supporting container enclosing the wad of cotton candy within a sealed volume with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container;

the container defining a significantly gas impermeable sealed volume which surrounds the cotton candy wad and reduces moisture contact with the cotton candy to maintain the freshness of the cotton candy wad.

16. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein the container has a gas impermeability which results in the exposure of the cotton candy to less than approximately 0.3 grams of moisture per 100 square inches of container area at 73° Fahrenheit for 365 days.

17. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein the container is formed of polypropylene having a wall thickness in the range of 0.007 to 0.015 inches.

18. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 17 wherein the container is formed of polypropylene having a wall thickness of approximately 0.011 inches.

19. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein said rigid container comprises a container body and a lid, the lid forming a significantly gas impermeable seal with the container body.

20. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein the rigid container comprises a container body and a lid, the lid forming a snap seal with the container body.

21. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein the container is sufficiently rigid to stackably support another container without compression of the cotton candy product therein, and further including a stack of a plurality of the containers filled with cotton candy.

22. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein said container is made of a plastic material.

23. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein said rigid container is at least partially transparent so the cotton candy may be seen in the container.

24. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 15 wherein said container is generally cylindrical in shape.

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of marketing and selling cotton candy comprising:

forming a fluffy wad of cotton candy;

positioning the fluffy wad of cotton candy in a rigid, self-supporting container with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container, and sealing the rigid container around the wad of cotton candy;

the rigid container defining a static volume which surrounds the cotton candy wad and the container protecting the wad from being easily compressed and damaged; and

the container maintaining the cotton candy from moisture sufficient to degrade the cotton candy for a period of at least two weeks.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 wherein said container includes a body and a lid, the method further including snap sealing the lid with the container body for providing a significantly airtight seal for the container.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 wherein said container is generally gas impermeable and significantly prevents the exposure of the cotton candy to moisture in the atmosphere to maintain the cotton candy for a period of at least one month.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 wherein the container is configured to stackably support another similar rigid container without compression of the cotton candy wads therein.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 25 including the positioning step of placing the cotton candy in a container is formed of polypropylene having a wall thickness in the range of 0.007 to 0.015 inches.

30. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food product comprising:

a fluffy wad of cotton candy;

a rigid, self-supporting container body enclosing the wad of cotton candy within a sealed volume with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container body;

the rigid container body defining a static volume which surrounds the cotton candy wad and generally protects the wad from being easily compressed

and damaged, and maintains the cotton candy from moisture sufficient to degrade the cotton candy for a period of at least two weeks.

31. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A food product comprising:

a fluffy wad of cotton candy;

a rigid, self-supporting container enclosing the wad of cotton candy within a sealed volume with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container;

the container being significantly gas impermeable and operable for reducing the exposure of the wad of cotton candy to moisture in the ambient atmosphere to establish a shelf life of the food product of at least one month.

32. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The food product of claim 31 wherein said container includes a lid, the lid being snap sealed with the container body for providing the significantly gas impermeable container.

33. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 31 wherein said container is formed of plastic having a wall thickness in the range of 0.007 to 0.015 inches.

34. (ORIGINAL) The food product of claim 33 wherein said container is formed of a plastic having a wall thickness of about 0.011 inches.



35. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of marketing and selling cotton candy comprising:

positioning a fluffy wad of cotton candy in a rigid, self-supporting, container body through an opening in the container body with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container body, the container body being significantly gas impermeable and surrounding the cotton candy wad to generally protect the wad from being easily compressed;

sealing the container body opening in a significantly airtight fashion to form a closed container, the closed container defining a generally gas impermeable volume surrounding the wad of cotton candy to reduce moisture contact with the cotton candy and maintain its freshness;

presenting the wad of cotton candy in the container for direct consumption by a consumer from the container.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of marketing and selling cotton candy comprising:

positioning a fluffy wad of cotton candy in a rigid, self-supporting container, with the wad in direct contact with an inner surface of the container, and sealing the rigid container around the wad of cotton candy;

the rigid container defining a static volume which surrounds the cotton candy wad and the container protecting the wad from being easily compressed and damaged; and

the container maintaining the cotton candy from moisture sufficient to degrade the cotton candy for a period of at least two weeks.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 1 wherein said sealing step includes applying a releasable top to said opening in said container.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A food product as in claim 15 wherein said container includes an opening sealed by a closable closure.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 25 wherein said container has an opening for receipt therein of said wad and said sealing step includes applying a reclosable closure to said opening.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A food product as in claim 30 wherein said container includes an opening covered and sealed with a reclosable closure.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A food product as in claim 31 wherein said container includes an opening covered and sealed with a reclosable closure.

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 35 wherein said sealing step includes sealing said opening with a reclosable closure.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method as in claim 36 wherein said sealing step includes applying a reclosable closure to an opening in said container through which cotton candy is positioned therein.